

Message Text

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71

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06

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R 101435Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9684

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 2319

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, BTIO, TD

SUBJECT: PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 2314

1. DURING CALL ON POLLARD MOORE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PORT CONTRACTORS LTD., ON ANOTHER MATTER (SEE REFTEL), MOORE EXPRESSED OUTRAGE AT IMPOSITION OF 5 PERCENT PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE BY SHIPPING CONFERENCE ON TRAFFIC TO TRINIDAD SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 16.

2. MOORE SAID HE IS WELL AWARE THERE IS A PROBLEM AT THE PORTS. HOWEVER, GOTTL IS WORKING HARD TO CORRECT PROBLEM, AND IN FACT IS IN PROCESS OF IMPORTING A GOOD DEAL OF US EQUIPMENT FOR EXPANSION OF PORT FACILITIES. THEREFORE HE FEELS CONFERENCE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT SITUATION IS TEMPORARY AND HE BELIEVES SURCHARGE IS UNJUSTIFIED. MOORE SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN INFORMED, AND GOTTL PLANS TO MAKE PROTEST AT DIPLOMATIC LEVEL.

3. MOORE SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT SURCHARGE WAS INITIATIVE OF SEA-LAND. DESPITE ALMOST DAILY CONTACTS WITH COMPANY, THEY HAVE NEVER ONCE MENTIONED SURCHARGE TO HIM DIRECTLY. WORKING RELATIONS

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WITH SEA-LAND HAD OTHERWISE BEEN HARMONIOUS, IN FACT

MUCH OF PORT EXPANSION PROGRAM HAD BEEN IN CONTAINER
FACILITIES AND SEA-LAND WOULD BE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARY
OF THESE NEW FACILITIES.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED WHETHER SURCHARGE
HAS BEEN APPROVED BY MARAD, AND IF SO, GROUNDS FOR APPROVAL,
IN ANTICIPATION THAT FORMAL PROTEST MAY BE LODGED BY GOT.

RICH

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Message Attributes

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